

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123  
March 14. 2015

Meeting Held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Beth Newton, District 1; Laurie Martell, District 3; Ted Kagan, District 2; Nancy Owen, Member-at-Large; John Weaver, District 4; Bill Dillingham, Member-at-Large; Will Rodriguez, Member-at-Large; Michael Robledo, District 5; Wilfred Quintong, Interim VSO.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Commander, Navy Region Southwest (U)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Luis Monteagudo, Supervisor Greg Cox' office; Monique Robledo

**1. Call to Order**

Mary Beth Newton called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Introductions/Public (3 minutes)**

**4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting**

Prior meeting minutes were approved as written by all

**5. Chairman's Report**

**Legislative:**

Mary Beth said the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act was signed by the President into law on February 12, 2015.

She also spoke about H.R 216, a bill recently introduced that would require the Secretary of the VA to establish a Chief Strategy Office to advise on long range VA planning.

## **One VA**

Nancy Owen attended the meeting and said discussions on the following were conducted.

National Cemeteries; Fort Rosecrans has 112,798 interments and Miramar has 5,650. Memorial Day services at Miramar will be held May 24 at 1 pm and at Fort Rosecrans on May 25 at 10 am.

Next One VA meeting is March 18 at the regional office.

## **Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)**

Luis Monteagudo went over the letter sent to CalVet regarding the need for a Memory Care unit in the Chula Vista Veterans Home. CalVet sent a letter back stating funding is not possible at this time because of all the upgrades it would require and the associated staffing costs. Supervisor Greg Cox wants to work with Senator Hueso to try and see if possible funding could be set aside for this project once an estimate is done by the state. Lael Hepworth, CVVH Director, is very supportive of this project and he is going to add it to the 5 year strategic plan for the home to put it on record as a basis to discuss with Sacramento in the future.

Ben Dillingham asked if there was an estimate on the cost for this project. Luis said there is no estimate at this time. In order to do cost estimation the state has to do an architectural study and they are not putting aside the money for that yet. Supervisor Cox has said he would help with fundraising if needed but that an estimate is needed first.

There is going to be an update by Supervisor Jacob on Tuesday at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nancy passed out a flyer to include in the minutes for the Chula Vista Veterans Home 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament Classic. It will be on Thursday May 7, 2015 at Eastlake Country Club (Attachment A).

Nancy also provided the new website for the foundation <http://cvvhsf.wix.com/cvvhsf>

## **United Veterans Council (UVC)**

Laurie Martell attended the UVC meeting.

- Laurie passed out a calendar from the meeting to include in the minutes (Attachment B).
- UVC has an updated website [www.sduvc.org](http://www.sduvc.org)
- VA issued a Choice Card to all enrolled veterans.
- VA is hiring 147 people for mental health services.
- They are building a new spinal cord injury (SCI) and Community Living Center (CLC) with 45 beds for SEI and 43 beds for CLC. Construction begins November 2015.
- Parking construction update is that in August there should be over 300 more spaces but the main project will be completed in 2017.

## **County Veteran Service Office (CVSO)**

Wilfred Quintong updated on the following:

- The Executive report for the Intel & Recon for Military and Veterans has been forwarded to HHSA Director, Nick Macchione. Wil will bring a copy for VAC members when approved.
- Mike Piepenburg attended a CVSO Association meeting last month and the San Diego County Veteran Services Office is the number one in the state among the larger offices in the area of outreach to veterans. San Diego County has several initiatives to make this even better.
  - Vet-Connect program is starting live at the Julian Library on March 26.
  - Pine Valley library has been added for San Diego County Veteran Services presence and looking to extend to another library in July 2015 in rural East County.
  - The Veteran Resource Center in Escondido is scheduled to open in June 2015. Approximately 15 non-profit organizations will be servicing veterans and will be housed in the building.

Interviews for the County Veteran Service Officer position are coming up in April.

Wil spoke about the Veterans Directive Home and Community Based Care Program. This is a partnership between County of San Diego and the VA Medical Center. We provide the care coordinator and it targets veterans in danger of being institutionalized and it comes up with a care plan to keep them at home. VA Medical Center determines the criteria. Funding is for 30 veterans in the program and that number has been reached. The VA Medical Center is pursuing more funding for additional veterans.

## **6. Community Reports**

Ted Kagan said that the Aging and independent Services (AIS) Advisory Council wants to establish a formal seat for a VAC member on their board. Ted Kagan will serve as the representative since he is already a member of the AIS Board and a VAC member and attends AIS meetings regularly.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

None

## **8. New Business**

No new business

**9. Closing Remarks**

Mary Beth thanked everyone for attending.

**10. Adjourned**

10:40 am